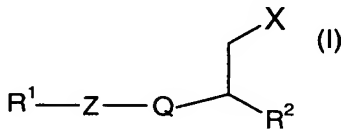
Abstract of the Disclosure

Compounds of Formula (I):



wherein:

R^1 is optionally substituted -C_{4-12} alkyl, -C_{2-10}alkylcycloalkyl, -C_{2-6}alkylheterocycloalkyl, -C_{2-6}alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl with the proviso that R^2 in not pyridinyl;

Z is a bond, CH_2, O, S, SO, SO_2, NR^4, OCR^4R^5 or CR^4R^5O; or Z, R^1 and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X is COR^3;

R^2 is $CONH_2$, CO_2H, CO_2R^7, SO_2R^7 or $SO_2NR^8R^9$, with the proviso that R^2 is not CO_2R^7, when X is $CONH_2$;

R^3 is OR^6 or NR^8R^9;

R^4 and R^5 each independently is H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl;

R^6 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^7 is C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^8 and R^9 each independently is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; or R^8 and R^9 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; or

physiologically functional derivatives thereof, with the proviso that formula (I) compounds are not:

[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;

butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or

butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and

with the proviso that when R^1 is C_{4-12}alkyl, Z is other than a bond, O or CH_2; and physiologically functional derivatives thereof , processes for their preparation, pharmaceutical formulations containing them and their use as inhibitors of matrix metallproteinase enzymes (MMPs) are described.